

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to. The specification was objected to. Claim 4 was objected to. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bryson '947.

Claim 4 has been amended. Claims 6 and 12 to 20 have been canceled without prejudice. New formal drawings have been submitted.

Drawing Objections

Fig. 8 has been amended to identify element 62, i.e. the backstops, as for example shown in Fig. 15. Approval of the drawings and removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Specification

It is respectfully submitted that paragraph [0047] reads correctly, as Fig. 9 shows the lowered position. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 4 has been amended as recommended by the Examiner and applicants thank the Examiner for this recommendation. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 6 has been canceled.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bryson '947. Bryson is discussed in the application, and discloses a front table 88 which reciprocates via rocker links 92 and 93. (See col. 7, line 67 et seq. of Bryson). Pushers 72 are attached to a carriage 73 mounted on guide tracks 74. The carriage 73 and pusher 72 reciprocate horizontally along guide tracks 74, and a cam 85 reciprocates the guide tracks 74. (See col. 6, line 67 et seq.). Backstops 133 are described at col. 10, line 46 et seq.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites: “a driver configured to move the pusher element at a same speed as the front table for a period of time with the pusher element in engagement with a first edge portion of the sheet material article and the backstop in engagement with a second edge portion of the sheet material article, the period of time being at least as long as a time required for a front clamp of the sheet material article trimmer to move through a distance corresponding to a difference in thickness between a thinnest sheet material article in a range of thicknesses and a thickest sheet material article in the range of thicknesses so as to grip the sheet material article against the front table.”

Bryson does not disclose or teach a driver moving the pusher element at a same speed as the front table for a time at least as long as a time required for a front clamp to move through a distance corresponding to the thickness differences recited. In fact, Bryson does not teach moving the pusher element and the front table at a same speed for anything other than an instantaneous point in time. Anticipation requires that each element of the claim be met. Bryson does not teach or show the claimed driver, nor has the Office Action identified the claimed limitation. The claimed drive means in claim 1, section d of Bryson does not disclose that the pusher element itself and front table move with the pusher and backstop contacted by the book at a same speed as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

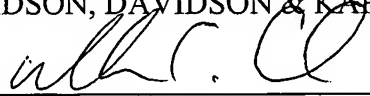
With further respect to claim 8, the servo motor is not identified in the office action. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 8 for this reason as well is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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